

**Programme for Monday 23 March and Tuesday 24 March to be considered by the Steering Committee at its meeting on Sunday 22 March 2026**



**BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
68<sup>th</sup> PLENARY SESSION**

**The Rose Hotel, Tralee, County Kerry, on Sunday 22nd to Tuesday 24th March 2026**

**PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS**

**SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2026**

**At 6.00 pm: Steering Committee Meeting in the Kerry Suite**

**At 7.30 pm**

**WELCOME RECEPTION IN THE LOBBY**

**At 8.00 pm**

**DINNER IN THE PARK RESTAURANT**

**Norma Foley TD**, Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Government of Ireland, will address the Assembly at dinner.

**Paul Gillespie**, Columnist and former Foreign Policy Editor for the Irish Times, will address the Assembly at dinner.

## **MONDAY 23 MARCH 2026**

**At 9.30 am: meeting in public session in the Lee Suite, The Rose Hotel, Tralee, County Kerry**

### **1. OPENING OF THE PLENARY SESSION**

### **2. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS**

### **3. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP: PROGRESS, SHARED AMBITION AND CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION**

**Jack Chambers TD**, Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation will address the Assembly and will respond to questions.

*The Co-Chairs will suspend proceedings not later than 10.45 am.*

**At 11.15 am:**

### **4. IRELAND, THE UK AND EUROPE**

*Debate on a motion to be moved by the Steering Committee:*

*That the Assembly takes note of the increased challenges of the international situation in the world and welcomes the efforts of Ireland, the UK and Europe to work together to meet these challenges.*

**Giedrius Drukteinis**, Vice President of the Baltic Assembly, will address the Assembly.

**At 12.15 pm:**

### **5. NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Matthew Patrick MP**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will address the Assembly and will respond to questions.

*The sitting will be suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.*

**At 2.30 pm**

### **6. FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Panel discussion with the following contributors –

- Professor Frank O'Mara, Director of Teagasc
- Dr. Joanne Uí Chruálaoich, CEO of Safefood
- Dominic Crowley, CEO of Concern Worldwide.

Moderator: Dr Majka Ryan, Associate Professor of Work and Employment, Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick.

*The Co-Chairs will suspend proceedings not later than 3.30 pm.*

**At 4.00 pm**

**7. UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT**

A discussion with Professor John O'Halloran, President of University College Cork (UCC) and Professor Maggie Cusack, President of Munster Technological University (MTU).

Moderator: Ms. Rachel Power, Head of Communications, Office of the President, MTU.

*The day's sitting will conclude not later than 5.30 pm.*

**TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2026**

**At 9.30 am: meeting in public session in the Lee Suite, The Rose Hotel, Tralee, County Kerry**

**8. PROGRESS ON COMMITTEE WORK**

Progress Report from the Committee Chairs

**9. VOICES FROM THE IRELAND-UK YOUTH FORUM**

*The Co-Chairs will suspend proceedings not later than 10.45 am.*

**At 11.15 am:**

**10. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSION**

Professor Andrew Cottey, Jean Monnet Chair in European Political Integration, UCC will address the Assembly.

*Debate on a motion to be moved by the Steering Committee:*

*That the Assembly takes note of the international situation.*

**Not later than 12.25 pm:**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The Steering Committee adjourn the Plenary. That the Assembly do now adjourn.

*The session will conclude not later than 12.25 pm.*